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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P016874WO		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/GB2004/001299	International filing date (day/month/year) 25.03.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 03.04.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04Q7/38, H04Q7/22			
Applicant INTELLPROP LIMITED et al.			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau a total of 3 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (Indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand  15.10.2004		Date of completion of this report  29.09.2005	
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - Gitschiner Str. 103 D-10958 Berlin Tel. +49 30 25901 - 0 Fax: +49 30 25901 - 840		Authorized Officer  M. García  Telephone No. +49 30 25901-479	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/001299

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**Box No. I Basis of the report**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements\*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

**Description, Pages**

1-8 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-18 received on 04.02.2005 with letter of 03.02.2005

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/1 as originally filed

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages
  - ☐ the claims, Nos.
  - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
  - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
  - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.  
PCT/GB2004/001299

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

**see separate sheet**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1:WO 00/79826 A (INCIRCO AB) 28 December 2000 (2000-12-28)  
D2:WO 99/67922 A (MCI WORLDCOM) 29 December 1999 (1999-12-29)

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1-18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

- 2.1 The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):  
telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network, ( p. 1, ll.26-31 and fig. 1a)  
the apparatus being operable to store for a first user addresses representing members of at least one group of users, said addresses being configurable by the first user, ( p. 2, ll. 23-26 and p. 29 l. 18-p. 30 l. 7)  
wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the apparatus being thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group of users. (p. 2, ll. 14-16)  
and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users (p. 42, ll. 10-15) and (p.16, ll. 19-24) and (f. 6)

The subject-matter of **claim 1** is therefore not new.

The same reasoning applies to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claims 9 and 17.

It is pointed out in D1 (see p. 28, ll. 22-25) that a group is defined and used for both voice calls and text messages. It is also defined in D1 ( see f. 6) that the same platform is used to send the text messages and to establish the conference.

It should furthermore be noted that even if the applicant intended to argue novelty of independent claims 1, 9 and 17, based on a slightly different interpretation of the features of claims 1, 9 and 17 and those disclosed in document D1, the subject-

matter of 1, 9 and 17 would not involve an inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT, having regard to the disclosure of document D1 and the normal knowledge of a person skilled in the art.

3. Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.

Further comments:

The feature of using the same service number for both services (conferences and text messages) is merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill.

It is also disclosed in D1(P. 2, ll. 23-26) that the groups are configurable by each user. and managed through a web site (p. 6, ll. 22-32).

D1 also described ( p. 2, ll. 14-16) group text messages as the sending of a SMS message to a service platform which will send this message to a group of users previously defined in a group

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY  
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/001299

matter of 1, 9 and 17 would not involve an inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT, having regard to the disclosure of document D1 and the normal knowledge of a person skilled in the art.

3. Dependent claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.

**Further comments:**

The feature of using the same service number for both services (conferences and text messages) is merely one of several straightforward possibilities from which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without the exercise of inventive skill.

It is also disclosed in D1(P. 2, ll. 23-26) that the groups are configurable by each user. and managed through a web site (p. 6, ll. 22-32).

D1 also described ( p. 2, ll. 14-16) group text messages as the sending of a SMS message to a service platform which will send this message to a group of users previously defined in a group

**CLAIMS**

1. Telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network, the apparatus being operable to store for a first user addresses representing members of at least one group of users, said addresses being configurable by the first user, wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the apparatus being thereby operable to replicate the text message to the members of that group of users, and wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address, the apparatus being thereby operable to initiate an audio conference with the members of that group of users.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users comprises a short code.
3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a respective service address determines a particular group of users for each individual first user, permitting each first user to have personal group definitions.
4. Apparatus according to claim 3, including a database storing addresses of the or each group of users, and wherein the calling line identity of the first user is detected and the particular group of users is determined on the basis of the service address and the detected calling line identity.
5. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 4, including an address configuring means responsive to receipt of an identifier in a text message to manage the addresses of a respective group of users, the text message including one or more addresses of the respective group of users.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the address configuring means is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier between addresses in the text message, to interpret the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses.

7. Apparatus according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the or each identifier is a specific key character.

8. Apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 7, including means for sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference, the text message including an address for joining the audio conference.

9. A telecommunications services method for a mobile telephone network, the method involving storing for a first user addresses representing members of at least one group of users, said addresses being configurable by the first user, (i) wherein the first user may send a text message to a service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, the text message being thereby replicated to the members of that group of users, and/or (ii) wherein the first user may make a voice call to the same service address corresponding to one of the at least one group of users, an audio conference thereby being initiated with the members of that group of users.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the service address for the or each respective group of users comprises a short code.

11. A method according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein a respective service address determines a particular group of users for each individual first user, permitting each first user to have personal group definitions.

12. A method according to claim 11, including storing addresses of the or each group of users in a database, and wherein the calling line identity of the first user is detected and the particular group of users is determined on the basis of the service address and the detected calling line identity.

13. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, including an address configuring step responsive to receipt of an identifier in a text message to manage the



addresses of a respective group of users, the text message including one or more addresses of the respective group of users.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the address configuring step is also responsive to the presence of the same or a different identifier between addresses in the text message, to interpret the identifier as a delimiter between the addresses.

15. A method according to claim 13 or claim 14, wherein the or each identifier is a specific key character.

16. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 15, including sending a text message to a selected one of the groups of users inviting each user in the group to join an audio conference, the text message including an address for joining the audio conference.

17. A computer program for implementing a method according to any one of claims 9 to 16.

18. A storage medium storing a computer program according to claim 17.